

**Community Relations Committee
Judicial Conference of Indiana**

**Minutes
August 17, 2007**

The Community Relations Committee of the Judicial Conference of Indiana met at the Indiana Judicial Center in Indianapolis, Indiana on August 17, 2007.

1. **Members present.** The following members of the Community Relations Committee were present: John Sharpnack, Robert Altice, Kim Hall, Deborah Domine, David Chidester and Lorenzo Arredondo, chair.
2. **Staff assistance.** Jenny Bauer provided staff assistance to the Committee.
3. **Approval of minutes.** The minutes from the March 23, 2007 meeting were approved.
4. **Indiana Judges Association Awards.** Jenny Bauer reported that nomination forms for IJA Public Education and Information Awards were sent out in late June. The nomination period was open for 6 weeks and was publicized in the Indiana State Bar Association's weekly electronic newsletter and on the Indiana Law Blog. Ms. Bauer reported that three nominations were received for the judge award: Judge John Rader, Warren Circuit Court; Judge Christopher Burnham, Morgan Superior Court; and Magistrate Lori Morgan, Allen Circuit Court. She also reported that the committee did not receive any nominations for reporters. The Committee discussed the nominations and decided to present the judge award to Judge Rader and a special merit award to Judge Burnham. Ms. Bauer informed the Committee that the awards will be presented in Fort Wayne on September 20 during the Indiana Judges Association luncheon.
5. **Courtroom Cameras.** Jenny Bauer distributed newspaper articles covering the Supreme Court's pilot program on cameras in the courtroom. The articles appeared in the *Indianapolis Star* and the *South Bend Tribune*. Judge Altice talked about his courtroom's participation in the project and said criminal defendants have not agreed to have their proceedings televised. The pilot project is set to run through the end of 2007.
6. **Media Exposure for the Courts.** The Committee discussed trying to get more media exposure for the courts. Judge Altice reported that Channel 16 in Indianapolis has done legal shows hosted by judges in the past. He said that Bev Phillips is the contact person at the station. The Committee members also discussed submitting an article to *The Indiana Lawyer* and collecting articles written by other judges. The Committee asked Jenny Bauer to look into the ethical implications of judges writing newspaper articles.

7. **Retiring Committee members.** Judge Arredondo announced that his term on the Committee would end in September and thanked the members for their contributions. Judge Arredondo also stated that it had been an honor to serve as the chair of the committee

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Bauer
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Indiana Judicial Center